

COUNTRY Hungary Approved For Release 2003/08/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R008900310008-6

TOPIC Motorized Artillery Regiment in Dombovar

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EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 20 April to 4 May 1951

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 21 September 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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General.

1. The motorized artillery regiment in Dombovar (Y 5/B 16), postal No 2180, was assigned up to May 1951 to the headquarters of an unidentified artillery division in Kaposvar (Y 4/A 96) which, in turn, was subordinate to a corps headquarters in Kecskemet (Y 6/N 95). Source

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- learned that the artillery division had another motorized artillery regiment in Kiskoroes (Y 6/N 52), a motorized artillery regiment in Nagykoroes (Q 48/O 06) and a motorized AT artillery battalion in Dombovar. Details on the artillery division headquarters were not available. *

2. According to friends of source, the regiment was a horse-drawn artillery regiment in Komarom (P 48/Y 75) up to the winter of 1949/1950 and was transferred to the new barracks installation near Dombovar at an undetermined date. The barracks installation, which is about 25 km south of the city, on the west side of the road to Kaposzkecsok (Y 5/B 15), consisted of 1 four-story billeting building, about 150x25 meters; 1 three-story headquarters building, 40x15 meters; 1 one-story mess building, about 40x25 meters; 1 dispensary, about 20 meters square; and several gun sheds, workshops, and storehouses. A target range was located in the wooded southern section of the billeting area, which was surrounded by a wire fence, excluding two officers' billets.

3. The officers of the regiment included an unidentified captain, commanding officer, about 35 years old; Senior Lieutenant Meszaros (fnu), commanding officer of the 1st How Arty Bn, about 40 years old; and Lieutenant Vilmos Vescei, adjutant of the 1st Bn, about 25 years old.

4. The majority of the enlisted personnel belonged to the 1929 and 1930 classes. The regiment also included men of the 1926 and 1927 classes who were in their 28th and 32d month of active service respectively.

Organization and Strength.

5. The regiment was organized into a headquarters with headquarters battery of about 250 men, a signal battery of 45 to 50 men in three platoons, and two engineer units; two howitzer artillery battalions; and an AT artillery battalion. According to the kitchen personnel, there were 2,000 men in the regiment. The howitzer

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artillery battalions, as well as the AT artillery battalion, were organized into a headquarters with headquarters platoon and three batteries, each of upwards of 100 men in two platoons. ** All the components of the regiment had the same postal number, the battalion being indicated by a capital suffix letter [redacted]

Armament and Equipment.

6. Each of the batteries of the howitzer artillery battalions was equipped with four 122-mm howitzers, each of which had a barrel more than 2 meters long, without muzzle brake, a protective shield, split-trail carriage and 2 perforated disk wheels with rubber tires. Each battery of the AT artillery battalion had four 76.2-mm AT guns. From 50 to 60 howitzers and 20 to 25 AT guns were kept in the gun sheds of the regiment. Small arms included pistols, submachine guns, and rifles. Vehicles observed included 6 three-ton Csepel trucks, 2 Raba-Botond trucks, 4 GMC trucks, 26 four-ton ZIS trucks, 3 Raba-Super trucks, 39 weapons carriers and 1 Adler-Junior sedan.

Training

7. During his short stay with the unit, source was unable to make observations on the training of the regiment. It was rumored that the regiment was to move to a summer camp near Nagybalazs (Y 4/A 66). About 400 men from the Nograd Comitate arrived at the barracks installation on 4 May 1951. They said that they belonged to the 1920, 1924 and 1926 classes, that they were Communists and were inducted for reserve officer training.

Miscellaneous.

25X1 8. An AT artillery battalion [redacted] was also assigned to the artillery division headquarters, was quartered in the same barracks installation. According to kitchen personnel, there were about 500 men in the battalion. It was equipped with 25x76.2-mm AT guns.

25X1 * [redacted] Comment. Artillery units were previously reported to be located in Dombovar and Kiskorocs. Since only one Hungarian artillery division in Ercsi has been determined to date, the existence of a further artillery division in Kaposvar requires confirmation. It appears doubtful that this artillery division would be assigned to the corps headquarters in Kecskemet. According to available information, artillery divisions generally are assigned to the Army High Command or the Ministry of National Defense.

25X1 ** [redacted] Comment. The information on the organization and strength of the regiment requires clarification. It is believed improbable that a motorized artillery regiment includes two engineer units as its organic components. The strength estimates given in the present report are believed to be exaggerated. Motorized artillery units generally have relatively few personnel.

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